

treatment and prevention of infertility and research into new contraceptive technologies. We must not criminalize these inquiries.

H.R. 2505 would make permanent the moratorium on human cloning that the National Bioethics Advisory Commission recommended to President Clinton in 1997 in order to allow for more time to study the issue. Those who support the bill state that we must do so because we do not fully understand the ramifications of cloning and that allowing even cloning for embryonic stem cell research creates a slippery slope into reproductive cloning. I maintain that we must study what we do not know, not prohibit it. The very fact that there was disagreement among the witnesses who spoke before us in Judiciary Committee indicates that there is substantial need for further inquiry. We would not know progress if we were to criminalize every step that yielded some possible negative results along with the positive.

There are many legal uncertainties inherent in prohibiting cloning. First, we face the argument that reproductive cloning may be constitutionally protected by the right to privacy. We must also carefully consider whether we take a large step towards overturning *Roe v. Wade* when we legislatively protect embryos. We do not recognize embryos as full-fledged human beings with separate legal rights, and we should not seek to do so.

Instead, I again urge my colleagues to support the Greenwood-Deutsch-Schiff-DeGette substitute, a reasonable alternative to H.R. 2505. This legislation includes a ten year moratorium on cloning intended to create a human life, instead of permanently banning it. As I previously noted, it specifically prohibits human cloning or its products for the purposes of initiating or intending to initiate a pregnancy. It imposes the same penalties on this human cloning as does H.R. 2505. Thus, it addresses the concern of some that permitting scientific/research cloning would lead to permitting the creation of cloned humans.

More importantly, the Greenwood-Deutsch-Schiff-DeGette substitute will still permit valuable scientific research to continue, including embryonic stem cell research, which I have already discussed. This substitute would explicitly permit life giving fertility treatments to continue. As I have stated, for the millions of Americans struggling with infertility, protection of access to fertility treatments is crucial. Infertility is a crucial area of medicine in which we are developing cutting edge techniques that help those who cannot conceive on their own. It would be irresponsible to cut short these procedures by legislation that mistakenly treats them as the equivalent of reproductive cloning. For example, there is a fertility technique known as ooplasmic transfer that could be considered to be illegal cloning under HR 2505's broad definition of "human cloning." This technique involves the transfer of material that may contain mitochondrial DNA from a donor egg to another fertilized egg. This technique has successfully helped more than thirty infertile couples conceive healthy children. It may also come as no surprise that in vitro fertilization research has been a leading field for other valuable stem cell research.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise that ten percent of couples in

this country, or 6.1 million couples, experience infertility at any given time. It affects men and women with almost equal frequency. In 1998, the last year for which data is available, there were 80,000 recorded in vitro fertilization attempts, out of which 28,500 babies were born. This technique is a method by which a man's sperm and the woman's egg are combined in a laboratory dish, where fertilization occurs. The resulting embryo is then transferred to the uterus to develop naturally. Thousands of other children were conceived and born as a result of what are now considered lower technology procedures, such as intrauterine insemination. Recent improvements in scientific advancement make pregnancy possible in more than half of the couples pursuing treatments.

The language in my amendment made it explicitly clear that embryonic stem cell research and medical treatments will not be banned or restricted, even if both human and research cloning are. The organizations that respectively represent the infertile and their doctors, the American Infertility Association and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, support this amendment. For the millions of Americans struggling with infertility, this provision is very important. Infertility is a crucial area of medicine in which we are developing cutting edge techniques that help those who cannot conceive on their own. It is would be irresponsible to cut short these procedures by legislation that mistakenly addresses these treatments as the equivalent of reproductive cloning.

The proponents of H.R. 2505 argue that their bill will not prohibit these procedures. However, access to infertility treatments is so critical and fundamental to millions that we should make sure that it is explicitly protected here. We must not stifle the research and treatment by placing doctors and scientists in fear that they will violate criminal law. To do so would deny infertile couples access to these important treatments.

Whatever action we take, we must be careful that out of fear of remote consequences we do not chill valuable scientific research, such as that for the treatment and prevention of infertility or research into new contraceptive technologies. The essential advances we have made in this century and prior ones have been based on the principles of inquiry and experiment. We must tread lightly lest we risk trampling this spirit. Consider the example of Galileo, who was exiled for advocating the theory that the Earth rotated around the Sun. It is not an easy balance to simultaneously promote careful scientific advancement while also protecting ourselves from what is dangerous, but we must strive to do so. Lives depend on it.

Mr. Speaker, we must think carefully before we vote on this legislation, which will have far reaching implications on scientific and medical advancement and set the tone for congressional oversight of the scientific community.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes:

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to be concerned about the energy situation in the Pacific Northwest. Earlier this year, language was offered in House Energy and Water Appropriations bill to increase the borrowing authority at the Bonneville Power Administration by \$2 billion for transmission upgrading. I understand the language has been put into the Energy and Water bill on the Senate side.

Part of the transmission problem in the Northwest has been created by the temporary closure of aluminum facilities, especially those in Western Montana and Eastern Washington.

I am concerned about Bonneville's actions to reduce and possibly eliminate future electricity sales to the aluminum smelters in the Northwest, which collectively make up about 40% of total U.S. primary aluminum production. These actions will not only have significant and adverse impacts on the transmission system in the Northwest, but will also create economic dislocations in the communities in which these facilities have operated. This is not just a Northwest issue, however, since it could adversely affect the global supply and demand for aluminum.

I have raised these issues with the Department of Energy and will continue to work on them as a priority. As the Committee continues to deal with energy legislation, we may hold hearings on this subject and may consider legislative remedies to the situation in the Northwest. I intend to preserve and exercise the Energy and Commerce Committee's jurisdiction over BPA's transmission and power sales issues.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR SUPERCOMPUTING APPLICATIONS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and its new role in building the largest, most comprehensive computational infrastructure ever deployed for open scientific research. The Distributed Terascale Facility, or DTF, will provide the computing power that will enable the scientific discoveries of the 21st century, including computers capable of processing trillions of calculations per second and hundreds of terabytes of data storage capacity. The DTF